

[4]



674. K. 7
2

A
LETTER

FROM THE

Lord Bishop of *LONDON*,
to the Clergy of his Diocese.

REVEREND BROTHER,



HAVE received from his Grace,
the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*,
the following Letter, which I desire
you will not fail to read in your
Church on Sunday the

or in case of any
Impediment, as soon after as conveniently may be;
together with this, which I send, in pursuance of it,
to you, and every other Incumbent in my Diocese.

A

To

*To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop
of LONDON.*

MY LORD,

THE Corporation erected by our late gracious Sovereign King WILLIAM for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, having by their great Zeal in carrying on that good Work so far exhausted their Stock, as to be obliged to have Recourse to His Majesty for Assistance ; I do with great Pleasure communicate to your Lordship the gracious Letter, which He hath been pleased to send me in Answer to their Request.

YOU will therein see, how highly His Majesty approves this Undertaking ; and how ready He is to give His Royal Countenance, and Encouragement to it : What Liberty He hath granted for a publick Collection ; and what Commands He hath laid upon us, that Publication of His said Letter be made within our respective Dioceses ; and that the Ministers in each Parish be required effectually to excite their Parishioners to a liberal Contribution. All which I thought myself obliged to signify to your Lordship by this first Opportunity, not doubting, but that to the
utmost

utmost of your Power you will recommend, and promote this pious, and excellent Design. *I am,*

MY LORD,

Lambeth,
Dec. 18, 1741.

Your affectionate Brother,

JO. CANT.

To the Most Reverend Father in God, Our Right Trusty, and Right Entirely Beloved Councillor, John Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and Metropolitan.

GEORGE R.



MOST Reverend Father in God, Our Right Trusty, and Right Entirely Beloved Councillor, We greet you well. Whereas the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts have by their Petition humbly represented unto Us, that King WILLIAM the Third of glorious Memory, (upon Information, that in many of the English Plantations, Colonies, and Faëctories beyond the Seas, the Provision for Ministers was very mean; and many other of his said Plantations, Colonies, and Faëctories were wholly unprovided of a Maintenance for Ministers, and the publick Worship of God; and for Lack of Support, and Main-

tenance for such, many of His loving Subjects wanted the Administration of God's Word, and Sacraments, and seemed abandoned to Atheism, and Infidelity, and others of them to Popish Superstition, and Idolatry) was graciously pleased to erect the said Corporation by Letters Patent, bearing Date the 16th Day of June, 1701. For the Receiving, Managing, and Disposing of the Charity of such of his loving Subjects, as would be induced to extend their Charity towards the Maintenance of an Orthodox Clergy, and the making such other Provisions, as might be necessary for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts ;

T H A T since their Incorporation this Society hath fixed, and continues to maintain at a large Expence a great Number of Missionaries, Catechists, and School-masters in many of the Colonies, Factories, and Plantations within our Dominions in *America* ;

T H A T they have distributed more, than an Hundred Thousand Copies of the Bible, Common-Prayer, and other religious Books ; and that God hath so blessed them with Success in their Endeavours to discharge the Trust reposed in them by the Charter, that not only some Thousands of *Indians* and *Negroes* have been Instructed, and Baptized by their Missionaries ; but likewise by their Means, and Procurement many Churches have been built in several Parts of our Dominions in *America*, where at present in populous Congregations the Word of God is taught, and the
Sa-

Sacraments are administred according to the Liturgy of the Church of *England*.

THAT the great Expences necessarily attending these good Works have frequently very much exceeded the Income of the Society, which ariseth almost entirely from the voluntary Contributions of the Members, and of others Our good Subjects; and therefore the Society hath been obliged at two several Times, *viz.* in the Years 1711, and 1714, to make humble Applications to Her Majesty Queen ANNE; and once in the Year 1718 to His late Majesty, Our Royal Father, for their Royal Letters for a publick Collection of Charity; which were most graciously granted, and the Society thereby enabled to proceed in the Prosecution of those good Purposes, for which they were Incorporated.

THAT since the Year 1718, the Society having not had the Benefit of any Supply by a publick Collection, and having at the pressing Sollicitations of the Colonies (with which they were desirous to comply, even beyond their Abilities, and without which no one Mission hath been established) continued to encrease their Missionaries, Catechists, and Schoolmasters, have thereby incurred so considerable a Debt; that without Our Royal Aid, and Favour they will be unable to maintain, and continue the present Number, when yet the Governors, and People in the Plantations, are still very earnestly pressing for
more;

more; and the Popish Emissaries are very Vigilant, and Active in perverting, and drawing over Our Subjects to Popish Superstition, and Idolatry ;

THEY have therefore most humbly prayed Us to grant them Our Royal Letters, directed to the Lord Arch Bishop of *Canterbury*, and the Lord Arch Bishop of *York*, for a general Collection of Charity within their several Provinces, for the good Uses of the *Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts*.

WE taking the Premises into Our Royal Consideration, and being always ready to give the best Encouragement, and Countenance to Undertakings, which tend so much to the promoting true Piety, and Our Holy Religion, are graciously pleased to condescend to their Request; and do hereby direct You, that these Our Letters be communicated to the several Suffragan Bishops within your Province, expressly requiring them to take Care; that Publication be made hereof on such Sunday, and in such Places within their respective Dioceses, as the said Bishops shall appoint; And that upon this Occasion, the Ministers in each Parish do effectually excite their Parishioners to a liberal Contribution, whose Benevolence towards carrying on the said charitable Work, shall be collected the Week following, at their respective Dwellings by the Church Wardens, or Overseers of the Poor in each Parish; and the Ministers of the several Pa-

Parishes are to cause the Sums so collected to be paid immediately to the Treasurer, or Treasurers for the Time being of the said Society; to be accounted for by him, or them to the Society, and applied to the carrying on, and promoting the above-mentioned good Designs, And so we bid you very heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the Eighteenth Day of November 1741, in the Fifteenth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

You will see by the Letters, how important the Design is, which has given occasion to them; and I rest assured, that not only in your publick Discourse from the Pulpit, but by private Application, and by your personal Attendance upon the Collection, which I earnestly recommend; you will exert your utmost Endeavours to obtain such liberal Contributions, as are suitable to the Abilities of your Parishioners, and to the great Importance of the End for which they are desir'd. And I do assure you, with a very sensible Concern, that such Assistance is now become absolutely necessary to support, and carry on this most Charitable, Pious, and extensive Design.

LIKEWISE,

LIKEWISE, in every other Respect, I desire you will observe the Injunctions of His Majesty's most gracious Letter. And so, with hearty Prayers for good Success in this, and all your Labours for the Honour of God, and the Salvation of Mankind,

I remain,

February the 8th,
1741-2.

Your affectionate Brother,

EDM. LONDON.

N. B. *The Treasurers of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, are Messieurs William, and Thomas Tryon, Merchants in Crutched Fryers London.*

The Secretary is the Reverend Dr. Bearcroft, at the Charterhouse London.



